

Mails.

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

**TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO
JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES,
MEXICO,
CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND
EUROPE;**

VIA
THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS,
AND
ATLANTIC AND OTHER CONNECTING
STEAMERS.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

<i>Delgo</i>	Thursday 12th Nov.
<i>Oceanic</i>	Tuesday 8th Dec.
<i>Cornell</i>	Thursday 1st Dec.

THE Steamship
"BELGIC"
will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on THURSDAY, the 12th Nov. at 1 P.M. Connection being made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports.

RATES OF PASSAGE.
From Hongkong, First-class.
To San Francisco, Vancouver,
Victoria, Esquimaux, New
Westminster, Port Townsend,
Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, O..... \$325.00
To Liverpool and London 325.00

To Paris and Bremen.....	345.00
To Havre and Hamburg.....	135.00
Through Passage Tickets granted to Eng-	
land, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic	
lines of steamers.	
Special rates (First-class only) are granted to	
Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military	
Diplomatic and Civil Service, to European	
Officials in service of China and Japan, and to	
Government officials.	
Passengers by this line have the option of	
proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific	
and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern	
Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.	

Return Tickets.—First Class.—Prepaid return tickets to San Francisco will be issued at following rates:—

4 months.....	\$337.50
12 months.....	\$393.75

Time is reckoned from date of issue to date of re-embarkation at San Francisco.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (*vice versa*) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. *This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

All PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked to address in full; and same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points beyond San Francisco. In the

All PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked to address in full, and same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage of Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company No. 72, Queen's-Road Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 21st October. 1891.

U. S. MAIL LINE.
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY

THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVER-
LAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT
YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

PROPOSED SAILING FROM HONGKONG.
City of Peking Wednesday 25th Nov.
City of Rio de Janeiro } Saturday 19th Dec.
(via Honolulu)

THE U. S. Mail Steamship

"CITY OF PEKING"
will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, via
YOKOHAMA on WEDNESDAY, the 25th Nov.

at 1 P.M., taking Passengers and Freight to
Japan, the United States, and Europe.
RATES OF PASSAGE.
From Hongkong, First-class.
To San Francisco, Vancouver,
Victoria, Esquimaux, New

Westminster, Port Townsend,	\$225.00
Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, O...	
To Liverpool and London.....	335.00
To Paris and Bremen.....	345.00
To Havre and Hamburg	335.00
Through Passage Tickets granted to Englan	

Special rates (first class only) are granted, Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Service, to European Officers in service of China and Japan, and

Government officials.
Passengers by this line have the option proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.
Return Tickets.—First Class.—Prepaid return

tickets to San Francisco will be issued at following rates:—

4 months	\$337.50
12 months	\$393.75

Time is reckoned from date of issue to date of embarkation at San Francisco.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (*vice versa*) within one year will be allowed discount of 10 per cent. from Return Fare. *This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, via Overland Railways, Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the

Company's and connecting Steamers.
Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day. All Parcel Packages should be marked to a degree to full value of same is required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company
No. 72, Queen's Road Central.
J. S. VAN BUREN,
Agent.
Hongkong, 31st October. 1907.

W. S. MARTEN,
ARTISTIC DECORATOR,

HONGKONG.
Hongkong, 6th April, 1890.

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,
LIMITED,
CHEMISTS, &c.
SELECTION FROM WINE & SPIRIT LIST.
CLARET.

per case of 12 qts. 24 pbs.

VIN ORDINAIRE—An excellent light breakfast wine.....\$ 5.00

St. GERMAIN—a pure light wine with a decided character.....\$ 6.00

St. ESTEPHE—a light dinner wine.....\$ 6.00

St. JULIEN—a good dinner wine with more body.....\$ 8.00

CHATEAU LIVRAN 1874.....\$12.00

BARTON LANGO—a rare vintage claret, 1875.....\$14.00

S H E R R Y.

VINO GENEROSO—a generous round wine, green seal.....\$ 6.00 \$0.60

VINO DE PASTO—a medium dry wine with delicate flavor, red seal.....\$10.00 \$1.00

AMONTILLADO—a high class natural wine for connoisseurs of Sherry, yellow seal.....\$12.00 \$1.20

DELICOSO—the very finest sherry procurable, 6 years in bottle.....\$14.00 \$1.25

No. 22 & 24, OFFICE ROAD CENTRAL, LONDON, HONGKONG AND AMOY.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

WE invite attention to our first supplies
OF
CONFECTIONERY AND
CHRISTMAS GOODS
RECEIVED BY THE LAST MAIL.

JORDAN ALMONDS, NOUGAT, BUTTER SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFEES, DRAGEES, PRALINES, and a large selection of PURE CONFECTIONERY from the leading Manufacturers.

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CHOCOLATE
CREMES.

PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME, GUAVA, and other FRUIT JELLIES in great variety.

TOM SMITH'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

COLOURED OPALS mounted in Plush, representing favourite subjects.

A large assortment of ENGLISH and JAPANESE CHRISTMAS CARDS, of handsome and artistic designs, suitable to all tastes, and at moderate prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 1st November, 1891.

BIRTHS.
At the Hotel des Colonies, Shanghai, on the 28th October, 1891, the wife of Captain A. E. FREEMAN, Indo-China S. N. Co., of a daughter. At "Mablehurst" Shanghai, on the 28th October, 1891, the wife of J. R. TWENTYMAN, of a daughter.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

KILKENNY ELECTION.
LONDON, October 30th.
Mr. Macdonnell, anti-Parnellite, has been returned for Kilkenny unopposed.

CAPTAIN SHAW DECORATED.
Captain Shaw, of the London Fire Brigade, has been made a Commander of the Bath.

(From the Straits Times.)
CHOLERA IN AMOY.
LONDON, October 24th.
Advices from China received via San Francisco state that cholera is raging at Amoy; that hundreds have died from this disease and among them a number of American and English missionaries.

SHANGHAI AUTUMN RACE MEETING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th November, 1891.

Stewards:—A. McLeod, Esq.; O. Schoffenbauer, Esq.; R. McKinnon, Esq.; H. J. H. Trippe, Esq.; E. A. Clarke, Esq.; Herbert Smith, Esq.; E. R. E. Brecken, Esq.; E. H. Gore-Roth, Esq.; Clerk of the Course; Barnes Dallas, Esq., Secretary.

FIRST DAY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.
(By Special Wire.)

The MALO PLATE, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. Half-a-mile.

Mr. Sassoon's br. Hellycock, 11st. 1lb. entered.

The CRITERION STAKES, a Sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each, with Tls. 100 added; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; second pony to save his stakes. One Mile.

Mr. Sassoon's Sk. Hero, 11st. 7lb. 1
The MAIDEN STAKES, value, Tls. 200 and one-fourth of the entrance fees; second pony to receive one-fourth of the entrance fees; for China ponies that have never run at any meeting; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 10. Three-Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Falk's gr. Boreas, 11st. 7lb. 1
The RACING STAKES, a Sweepstakes of Tls. 10 each; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; Grifflins at date of entry allowed 5lbs.; previous winners 5lbs. extra for each Race won, accumulative penalties not to exceed 20lbs. One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Sassoon's gr. Beauty, 10st. 1lb. 1
The JOCKEY CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies that have never won a Race; to be ridden by Jockeys who have never had a winning mount before this meeting; weight for inches as per scale; entrance, Tls. 5. One Mile.

Mr. Jock's dun Determination, 10st. 12lb. 1
The CLUB CUP, value, Tls. 100, added to a Sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; Grifflins at date of entry allowed 5lbs. Two Miles.

Mr. John Peel's gr. Vagrant, 10st. 12lb. 1
The SWYCE STAKES, value, Tls. 100, added to a Sweepstakes of Tls. 5 each; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; Grifflins at date of entry allowed 5lbs.; winners at this meeting 5lbs. extra. One Mile and a Half.

Mr. Buxey's gr. Home Guard, 11st. 1lb. 1
Mr. Sassoon's br. Zephyr, 11st. 4lb. 1
Won by two lengths.

The SHANGHAI ST. LAGER, a Sweepstakes of Tls. 15 each, with Tls. 100 added; first pony to receive 75 per cent.; second pony to receive 15 per cent.; third pony to receive 10 per cent.; for China ponies that have never been raced previous to the 1st January, 1891; weight, 10st. 12lb.; ponies over 14 hands to carry 5lbs. extra for every inch over; winners of one Race, 5lbs. extra; two or more Races, 10lbs. extra. One Mile and Three Quarters.

Mr. Buxey's gr. Royalty, 10st. 12lb. 1
Mr. John Peel's gr. Talisman, 10st. 7lb. 1
Mr. Frederick's dun Bevil, 10st. 7lb. 3
Won, after a fine race, by a neck; time 3 mins. 50 secs. The victory of Mr. Buxey's pony was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

The CHINA CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies, being, *bona fide* Grifflins at date of entry, that have never been in Shanghai prior to 1st August last; weight for inches as per scale; winners, 5lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. One Mile.

Mr. Chouffeur's ch. Hohenzollern, 11st. 9lb. 1
At the time of going to press the results of the other races had not reached us.

SECOND DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD.
The NORTHERN CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winner of the Malo Plate, 10lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. Half-a-mile.

Mr. H. Sylva's dun Teutonic, 11st. 1lb. 1
The SHANGHAI ST. LAGER, a Sweepstakes of Tls. 15 each, with Tls. 100 added; first pony to receive 75 per cent.; second pony to receive 15 per cent.; third pony to receive 10 per cent.; for China ponies that have never been raced previous to the 1st January, 1891; weight, 10st. 12lb.; ponies over 14 hands to carry 5lbs. extra for every inch over; winners of one Race, 5lbs. extra; two or more Races, 10lbs. extra. One Mile and Three Quarters.

Mr. Buxey's gr. Royalty, 10st. 12lb. 1
Mr. John Peel's gr. Talisman, 10st. 7lb. 1
Mr. Frederick's dun Bevil, 10st. 7lb. 3
Won, after a fine race, by a neck; time 3 mins. 50 secs. The victory of Mr. Buxey's pony was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

The CHINA CUP, value, Tls. 100; for China ponies, being, *bona fide* Grifflins at date of entry, that have never been in Shanghai prior to 1st August last; weight for inches as per scale; winners, 5lbs. extra; entrance, Tls. 5. One Mile.

Mr. Chouffeur's ch. Hohenzollern, 11st. 9lb. 1
At the time of going to press the results of the other races had not reached us.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN.
(Special to N. C. Daily News.)
YOKOHAMA, 29th October, 11.50 a.m.

A severe shock of earthquake was felt in Central Japan on Wednesday morning. It has caused great damage to the Tokaido railway, numerous mills, and other buildings. The chimney of the Electric Works here was thrown down, the Fukui Kencho (Prefecture) and the Naniwa mills. At Osaka also there has been great loss of life and property.

In addition to the above, we learn that in the Kobe and Osaka districts great loss of life and property has been sustained.—Ed., H.K. Telegraph.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is the judgment of all the summer tourists that there's no place exactly like home.

As they grow older a man's nose grows fatter and a woman's grows sharper and thinner—a good sign that it is the woman whose nose is kept to the grindstone.

Sir Bache Cunard was asked why the Cunard line, in 50 years, never lost a passenger through any of its accidents, and his reply was—"Because we never employ cheap men."

Our Foochow contemporary understands that Fookien disbanded soldiers have been sent away from that port in considerable numbers at the expense of the Government, each man receiving a douceur of two thousand cash on his leaving.

Jockey Club Steward—What a nice horse! I wonder whose it is.
Gibbles—Why, it's your own old man.
J. C. S.—Don't you know I don't yet know, I can't tell one horse from another.

The first football match for the medal presented by the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society, will be played at the Happy Valley to-morrow afternoon, commencing at 4.15 o'clock sharp. The opposing teams will be "A" (yellow and black) and "B" (white) companies of the Argyle andutherland Highlanders, and a rattling good game is confidently anticipated.

HERB F. LENT and his chum Herr Beyer, the representative of the German Railway Syndicate who "figured" in Bangkok recently, left the capital of Siam for Singapore by the steamer *Schwalbe* on the 21st ultimo—presumably about the little contract, or concession, or whatever else he may have been smelling after, that has given of refuge for second-class adventures.

As the Blue-funnel steamer *Admiral* was entering the harbour this morning, newly arrived from Foochow, and was swerving from her course to pass an outgoing steamship, she carried her almost broadside on to the bows of the *Meuse*, with the result that several plates were stove, well above the water line, and the dingy wrecked. We have not heard from the *Meuse*.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held to-morrow, at 3 p.m., the business will be—
Report of the Finance Committee, No. 12 of 1891.
Resolution.

ORDER OF THE DAY.
Committee on the Bill entitled "The Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, 1891."

In the now famous Wiltshire case, we now hear that the questions at issue are receiving careful consideration and that, however slowly, decisive action may be taken in the matter, its importance will by no means be overlooked.

The Straits Times says that "in consequence of muzzles not yet arriving from England, dog owners have received tickets or orders for these articles to be supplied on arrival with the assurance that muzzles will be all right until the muzzles arrive." Comforting for those who get bitten!

MR. CHESNEY DUNCAN, to whose unflinching exertions the Hongkong Mercantile Marine Officers' Association owes its birth, arrived this morning from Bangkok, to rejoin the staff of the *Hongkong Telegraph* and take over the Secretaryship of the Association to its intimate friend and colleague, Mr. Duncan's experiences in Bangkok have not been quite unvarnished, but he has seen and studied a good deal, and his general views on the interesting country and its probable future will no doubt prove interesting to many of our readers.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess this evening, commencing at 8 p.m.:—
Overture—"Le Fiddle Banger".....Adams.
Voluntary—"Sweet Ruth de Lalande".....Adams.
Selection—"Musical Boquet".....Gosset.
Cotillon—"Pauze".....Dondoli.
Section—"The Merry Widow".....Kappeler.
At the Ladies' Recreation Club, to-morrow, commencing at 4.30 p.m.:—
March—"The Fiddle Banger".....Adams.
Voluntary—"Sweet Ruth de Lalande".....Adams.
Selection—"Musical Boquet".....Gosset.
Cotillon—"Pauze".....Dondoli.
Section—"The Merry Widow".....Kappeler.

MR. K. BETHGE, the German would-be Railway agent in Siam, has had to "back down," considerably in consequence of his entirely unauthoritative interference at some of the railway functions in Bangkok the other day. According to the *Siam Mercantile Gazette*, a letter of apology was sent by this *Far Eastern* imitator of Bismarck to Mr. Beckett, of H. B. M.'s Legation, expressing regret for the undignified proceedings caused by the aforesaid Bethge in connection with opening of the Korat railway tenders. The *Gazette* adds:—"The excitement of the last week has evidently proved too great a strain on the staff of the Royal Railway Department and so they have been granted a holiday of eight days, to recuperate." They evidently want something badly.

THE French are evidently preparing to strike a decisive blow in Indo-China in the near future. They have "bagged" the King of Cambodia; driven the Crown Prince of that country into Siam; occupied the state with French and Annamite troops; encroached on neutral territory in the valley of the Mekong; and are mobilizing their forces on the Annam-Siam frontier. Added to this they have, it is understood, entered into friendly relations with the savage Hoss, the "Black Flag" of North Eastern Siam, who are well able to render them invaluable assistance in the event of the Siamese placing serious obstacles in the way of their progress on the left bank of the Mekong (the natural frontier) being recognised as the permanent boundary between French Indo-China and the Kingdom of Siam.

THE Scotch crew won the four-oared International race at the Shanghai Regatta last Thursday, with the English crew second, and the Germans last. The winning crew were:—
St. lb.
Bow—A. J. Drew.....10 to 10
No. 2—Duncan Glass.....12 to 10
No. 3—A. H. Stewart.....12 to 10
Stroke—R. Campbell.....13 to 10
Cox—J. Hall.....13 to 10

It is really wonderful considering his many years in the Far East, how the veteran Duncan Glass maintains his grand old form and more than holds his own with the pick of the rising generation. We fancy the abilities of twenty years ago must have been moulded of better metal than the swell element of to-day. But anyhow, we are glad the champions of bonnie Scotland upheld their supremacy—and likewise, that the Germans were in their proper place—last.

THE Marine Court was the scene of considerable animation this morning, three cases being "on the boards." The first crowd of law-breakers consisted of some half-dozen junkmen who saw fit to try and bluff Sergeant Duncan with old rusty muskets when that officer gilded out from Stanley Station and politely requested them to anchor a wee bit further. No questions were asked by the culprit, who failed to put up the 82s required for a period of two and forty days. Next came the master of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's cargo-boat No. 6, who pleaded "not guilty" to the charge of obstructing the fairway. He said that as it was Sunday, he was unable to discharge his cargo. But such a feeble attempt to blame the Sunday Labour Ordinance for this inexcusable breach of a universally recognised law wouldn't wash with Mr. Hastings, who gave the *lawdash* the option of paying 50s or "going up" for 30 days. The *Messias* were paid.

The third case was of a "water-rat" who scrambled on board the steamer *Nanhai* without permission and hid therefore, to contribute 25s to Her Gracious Treasury.

MASON, of the Chinese Customs, the second class mania who is understood to have come down here on behalf of the Kolo-hui Society, to buy arms and engage men for an imaginary rebellion, and who the Chinese Government, for some reason or other, has charged before Judge Huxford at Shanghai on the 29th October, with knowingly having in his possession three packages of dynamite, under such circumstances as to give reasonable suspicion that he did not have it in his possession for a lawful object. He pled guilty and read a waddling explanation of his proceedings, which he would have been discreet to have avoided. The Crown Advocate, Mr. H. E. Wilkinson, then came forward to read the charges against him, and after about half an hour, but so far as we can gather from his observations, he might just as well have saved himself the trouble. He certainly said nothing, after Mason's plea of guilty and explanation, to in any way assist the Judge as to a proper sentence for the offence under trial. Eventually Mr. Huxford decided that nine months imprisonment would satisfy justice, and at the end of that period two sureties of \$500 each would be required to ensure the good behavior of the prisoner, or without any imprisonment, would have been ample punishment for such a brainless specimen of the modern conspirator. And by the way, we note that Mr. Yi, a deputy of the Viceroy of Nanking, watched the proceedings on behalf of that eminent potentate. It may interest many of our readers to know that Mr. Yi is an old Hongkong resident—and a very decent fellow too—who was once well known in the colony as a devoted and prominent member of the Chinese community, and who is now a resident in the colony.

THE agents (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) inform us that the "Ben" Line steamer *Benlary*, from Antwerp and London, left Singapore for this port yesterday.

We hear that Mr. W. R. D. Beckett, of H. B. M. Consular Service in Siam, is about to travel from Bangkok to the Mekong river through the Laos States and, crossing the Annam-Siam frontier near Nongkhal, will continue his journey through Annam and Tongkin to Saigon; whence he will take steamer for Europe on twelve months' leave of absence. Mr. Beckett's post in Bangkok will, it is understood, be filled by Mr. M. Hughes.

ACTING Official Insolence has day by day grown more and more arrogant and contemptuous, and has piled up the insults on the "common people" to such a height that by comparison even a Macao cur felt haughty and nobly independent, and pointed the finger of scorn at the weak, patient, uncomplaining tax-payers and their elected representatives, and laughed at the humiliation of the free and enlightened Saxon. Never a question arises but the official element simply decides it by taking the view which is not taken by anybody else. The ordinary meetings of the Legislative Council and (in a smaller way) the Sanitary Board team with instances. A taxpayer rises and humbly suggests that two and two make four. Straightway comes the answer "Oh no, certainly not—five it is, and don't be a fool." Every time it is the same, until it really passes all comprehension, how the men who hold their places by the noblest right known to Western nations, the right of popular selection according to individual merit, affirmed by the will of the people—it is beyond all understanding how these men can calmly go on tolerating these affronts, doing their duty knowing that it will bring down another crusher, and trying in vain, like Sisyphus, to struggle with the ever-falling rock. But at last even Mr. Whitehead could stand it no longer. Every suggestion he has made, every opinion he has expressed, every wish he has uttered has been at once jumped on, and yesterday he realised that the Council would still go on its official way just the same whether he remained or not, and he asked to be allowed to retire.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ATTACK ON THE OPIUM FARM.

The following is the extended report of the debate yesterday evening on the question of the opium traffic and the system of farming revenues. For the latter part we are indebted to the *Daily Press*.

PREPARED OPIUM BILL, 1891.

The Attorney General moved that the Bill be re-committed in order to effect certain alterations consequent on the deletion of clause 88.

The Council having resolved itself into committee, Mr. T. H. Whitehead said:—"I wish to move an amendment to section 14 of the Bill. I would move that section 14 should read as follows:—'The Governor in Council may grant to any person, for such considerations and upon such conditions, as the Government shall approve, and for a period of two years only, the sole privilege of preparing opium, &c.'"

It is unnecessary and inexpedient for the Legislature to sanction the continuance of Government of the opium monopoly farm for an indefinite time or for a longer period than two years at the outside from March next. The principle of this proposed enactment is directly opposed to the established laws of England, inasmuch as it creates a monopoly, and as monopolies of every description are in their essence objectionable and bad policy. Thanks to the continued strenuous efforts of our forefathers for generations against it, the farming of any tax is no longer tolerated in Great Britain, and has not been known in the United Kingdom for upwards of 200 years. The time has long since gone by for any Farmer claiming to be a civilized Government to farm taxes of any description, and any Government that by the monopoly of the opium traffic, or by the introduction of such a pernicious system in England would promptly ensure its own destruction. It is greatly to be deplored that the Government system which creates this monopoly, and farms this opium tax amounting to about half a million dollars per annum, or one-fourth of the Colony's total revenue, cannot be disassociated with the booting up of a vast amount of vice and immorality, or rendered inseparable from bribery and corruption, as well as grave abuses and evil effects. A monopoly, and a pernicious one at that, is the only system by which the Government authority is weak and hopelessly at fault and where such a system may be looked upon as the lesser of two evils. This opium monopoly farm proposed by Government may be regarded as approaching a confession of incapacity to grapple with the subject, for it is a lax and unconstitutional method of government. It will again legally set up a monopolist in our midst, the farmer, who has to make profit somehow, for it is scarcely conceivable that the peasant farmer will pay the Government about half a million dollars a year for the opium monopoly out of benevolence or philanthropic motives. All the resources of this Government-created monopolist, who has a large pecuniary interest at stake, will be devoted to increasing the sale of the drug and to deriving gain at the expense of the people by means of this opium tax, which tax is extracted at all from the pockets of the public should pass entirely into the public treasury. This proposed law creates the functions and the duties of the Colonial Government to the opium monopolist. The farmer will consequently be permitted to squeeze the opium consumer to the utmost degree for his own gain and he will be armed by Government with legal power to an extent which in Chinese hands is simply appalling, and which will render Hongkong no longer a free port. If a duty were collected by the Government on raw opium a perfectly reasonable and legitimate revenue would be raised. There is nothing to hinder the Government from collecting such a revenue if the Imperial Authorities do not deem it expedient to interfere. The Governments of America, China, Japan, India, and other countries have hitherto collected the duty on opium direct, and continue to do so, not through a farmer. The Government here on a previous occasion collected the opium tax direct from the people instead of through a farmer and thereby increased the revenue. If the opium farm monopoly were abandoned we would have fewer criminals to deal with, one Magistrate and a few numerous police force would meet our requirements. There would be absolutely no necessity for the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars for increased guard accommodation during the next decade. All opium on its arrival here should be stored in bonded warehouse. A duty could be levied on raw opium as delivered from bond for local consumption sufficient to raise a legitimate income and pay for an efficient preventive service to guard against smuggling. The opium intended for transshipment would pay no duty and could be removed from bond under proper restrictions ensuring that it did not go into local consumption. The working of the bonded warehouse system would be simple enough, and so long as a revenue is required from opium it could be adjusted annually. The freedom of the port would be sacrificed in name only, and solely as regards opium. Hongkong under such a system, would be a freer port than

It is now, or is likely to be under the proposed new law, for the restrictions to protect the Government monopolist are increasing to the point of becoming unbearable. It is earnestly to be hoped the day is not far distant when the Hongkong Government will set its face resolutely and emphatically against farming out the opium tax, or any other tax. The present method, which is proposed to be continued with increased vigour, directly associates the Government with the preparation and increased sale of the drug. The fiscal policy of the Government as regards the opium tax stands condemned on moral as well as on economic grounds. The time has come for a reversal of this vicious, illogical, uneconomic opium farm monopoly tax. We should do all in our power to wash our hands entirely and abandon at the earliest possible date all Government connection with pecuniary gain from the preparation and sale of the deleterious drug. It has done more harm than anything else can well recall, and tends to (if it does not) demoralise a number of our Police force. The Government may be enabled to derive a quarter of our revenue from the continuance of the opium farm, but it is an unhealthy and unwholesome source of income, for the Government thereby sacrifices or sells for money every principle of political economy and morality. The opium traffic has long been and still is in itself the source of much human misery and crime, but when carried on under a farmer as a Government monopoly, that misery and that crime is intensified in character and more than doubled in quantity. The Government connection with this antiquated monopoly system is as degrading to the Government as it is debasing to the people, for it blocks the advance of Western ideas in China, and has done more than anything else to undo any civilising influence Europeans may exercise on the Chinese. 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NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The following telegrams were unavoidably held over last night owing to excessive pressure on our news columns:—

LONDON, October 6th.

The report of the murder of Captain Young, husband, British Political Agent at the Pamir Steppes, Central Asia, by Russians, proves to be without foundation.

The steamer *Volition*, of West Hartlepool, Captain W. Williams, on a voyage from Bristol to New York, collided with an iceberg in the Atlantic, and sank. Twelve of the crew were drowned.

Cardinal Langénieux, Archbishop of Rheims, in the presence of the Pope has expressed regret for the incident at the tomb of Victor Emmanuel when the French pilgrims insulted the memory of the late King of Italy.

The shares of the Bank of South Australia were quoted on the Stock Exchange to-day at £15.

The directors of the Bank of South Australia have decided to pay no dividend for the past half-year. They propose to write off £6 per share, and to appropriate the whole of the reserve to meet recent losses.

M. Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, states that M. Ribot, the French Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, intends, after having sounded the Chamber of Deputies, to promptly conclude a written compact specifying the arrangement which has been entered into by France and Russia.

It is expected that a treaty will be signed within a few weeks, despite Russian attempts to prevent a too close identification of France with Russian interests.

Frequent conflicts have taken place between the men on strike and the non-strikers at work at the Carron wharves; but so far the consequences have not proved serious. Further police protection is needed.

The masters deny that they have any intention of locking the men out.

One hundred and forty non-strikers have arrived at Carron Wharf. The police appear to be more energetic than at previous strikes, and are according the few cannes and waggons at work.

The Carron has abandoned the holding of Court balls, and intends to devote the money thus saved to the Russian famine fund.

The peasants in the Balkan district are dying by thousands from starvation.

Telegrams from San Francisco state that reports have been received there from Honolulu that Queen Liliuokalani and the Queen-Dowager (Queen Kapiolani) are seriously ill, and that their deaths may be expected at any moment.

Intense excitement prevails in the islands over the coming elections, owing to a fear that the English will secure the control before the arrival of the United States fleet.

King Charles of Wurtemberg is reported to be dying. He is in his 68th year.

The King of Wurtemberg died to-day, leaving no issue of his marriage with the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia (aunt of the Czar) the throne passes to his nephew, Prince William, eldest son of the late King's sister, the Princess Katharine, and the late Prince Frederick of Wurtemberg.

The coroner who held the inquest on the Galley-chorus girl, Lydia Manion, who committed suicide, states that no attempt was made to keep the matter secret, but that the court was filled with reporters and the general public.

Large quantities of colonial produce, consisting of gum, bark, cotton, and tallow, have been destroyed by the fire in Tooley-street. The fire commenced on the premises of Messrs. Leach and Co., steamship-owners and wharfingers, Mark Brown's Wharf, Potter's Field, and rapidly extended, and five other warehouses were completely gutted.

The Emperor Francis Joseph has fallen in his tour through Bohemia to reconcile the Germans and the Czechs.

The Peruvian Government has notified to the Chilean Junta that if it persists in its present attitude towards Peru it will lead to a cessation of friendly relations between the two states.

October 7th.

A leading member of the New Hebrides Co. has informed Sir Graham Berry, Agent-General for Victoria, that M. Ribot, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, seemed disposed to consider proposals for an exchange of French interests in the New Hebrides for an equivalent elsewhere.

Another idea mooted is the formation of an international company holding a charter from England and France to develop the French company's 200,000 acres of land. Mr. Higginson supports the first proposal, but approves the second.

Sir Graham Berry has replied to the effect that Australian interests must be conserved. Australia, he says, can afford to wait.

The Duke of Manchester is seriously ill. His condition is regarded as critical.

It has transpired that when the crisis caused by the collapse of Messrs. Baring Brothers was imminent the late Mr. W. H. Smith offered to give Mr. William Lidderdale, the Governor of the Bank of England, £100,000 of his own money if it would avert the crisis. The offer was declined.

The Queen has expressed her esteem for the deceased gentleman, and Lord Salisbury has been deeply affected by his death.

The funeral of the late hon. gentleman will take place quietly at Hambleton, St. Mary, near his Buckinghamshire residence, on Saturday. A memorial service will be held in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Gladstone, in a letter just published, practices the early remembrance of the Presbyterian bodies, and also of the Baptists and the Congregationalists, but he says it will be difficult to include the Methodists.

The lightermen, who had previously declined to come out on strike and so did the men out from the Carron and Hermitage Wharves, yielding to pressure, have now ceased work.

October 8th.

The employers accept Mr. Ben Tillett's suggestion for a conference, but adhere to their original terms. Mr. Tillett says that it will be better to accept the conditions than to extend the strike.

The strike of lumbermen at Ottawa has collapsed. Mr. W. H. Smith caught a chill while yachting. An acute attack of gout supervened, and reached the heart, causing death.

Mr. Gladstone has sent a telegram of condolence to the widow of the deceased, in which he recognises his fine personal qualities and devotion to the public service.

All sections of the press contain generous references to the career of the deceased gentleman.

The *Times* declares that there is no man whom it will be more difficult to replace.

A bill has been introduced into the Folketing or Chamber of Deputies of Denmark, providing that a national trade mark be affixed to all Danish butter exported.

According to the monthly return of the Board of Trade the imports in the United Kingdom for September show a decrease of £1,350,000, and the exports a decrease of £1,970,000.

The Lightermen's Union has decided to join the men on strike from the Riverside wharves.

Sir James Fergusson, the new Postmaster-General, in defiance to public opinion at Manchester, has resigned his seat upon the Board of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

Bank of South Australia shares are quoted at £12.

A meeting of the shareholders of the bank is to be held on the 15th instant to consider the proposals of the directors.

The New Guinea Co. announces that the Kaiser Wilhelm plantation in German New Guinea is badly situated, and advises the members to exchange their shares into the Astrolabe Bay Co., now being formed in Berlin to grow tobacco.

Further particulars received from Loango, West Africa, with reference to the massacre of M. Paul Crampel's expedition, state that 3000 natives, led by Arabs, massacred in April last the whole of the expedition except one white man and to blacks, who escaped.

[The persons who accompanied M. Crampel, besides the natives, were M. Biscarrat, a Frenchman, an Arab interpreter, and two Senegalese Sepoys. The object of the expedition, according to the French newspapers, was to connect by means of proper annexations the French Congo with Lake Chad, and thus secure a route over French territory from the Congo to Algeria. Another result of these annexations would be to cut off England and Germany from any further progress towards the interior, and enable France slowly, and without fear of intruders, to gradually extend her influence over the Mohammedan States between Lake Chad and the upper course of the Nile.]

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Moorhouse (formerly Bishop of Melbourne) preaching at the Church Congress at Ryde, declared that the proposal to disendow the Church in Wales meant the piecemeal disendowment of the Church of England. The voluntary system in Australia, he said, was unable to prevent growing neglect, though the working men were comparatively rich.

The officers of the Russian Imperial Guards have decided to abstain from champagne in order to assist the famine fund.

People of all classes are following the example of self-denial set by the Czar in abandoning the holding of Court balls, &c., and devoting the money so saved to the famine relief fund.

Mr. Parnell's last public appearance was at Creggs, County Galway, on Sunday week last. He left Ireland on Thursday last for Brighton, and was then suffering from the effects of a chill, which developed into acute rheumatism. He died unconscious in the presence of his wife only.

When the news of Mr. Parnell's death was made known in Dublin there was immense excitement in the city, and business was stopped for some time. Many persons shed tears.

The National Federation, which was sitting at Dublin at once adjourned.

Mr. Justin McCarthy declares that the death of Mr. Parnell will have the effect of uniting the Irish party. A prominent Parnellite, on the other hand, declares that Mr. Parnell's death will widen the breach.

Mr. Parnell's family deny that he committed suicide. The doctors who were in attendance upon him decline to speak upon the subject.

Mr. James O'Kelly, M.P. for Roscommon, after viewing the body, declared that Mr. Parnell appeared to have died from natural causes.

When at Creggs Mr. Parnell stood for three hours in the rain, and so received the chill which resulted in his death.

Mr. Parnell left no political directions. But little outward regret at Mr. Parnell's death was exhibited at Cork; but the shock in Dublin was acute.

His death has caused a profound sensation in America, where the press comments in a generous manner on his career. Among the hostile Irish-American papers an immediate revision of feeling has occurred.

The belief is generally entertained in America, on the Continent, and in England that the disunion of the party will now cease. Speculation on the political effect of his death over-rides any expression of regret in England.

The *Times* states that the highest evidence of Mr. Parnell's intellectual ability is the fact that he inspired actual enthusiasm, though his personal character was so repellent.

The *Standard* says that he died in a manner and at a moment most favorable to his reputation, and that his death will revive the fond fancies of the past. It expects an early division of the party.

The Parnellites are arranging for a funeral in Dublin.

The medical men who attended Mr. Parnell have certified that he died from rheumatic fever, causing failure of the action of the heart.

Mr. Parnell has consented to the proposed public funeral in Ireland.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred a doctorship of divinity upon Bishop Barlow, of North Queensland.

The Amer of Afghanistan is about to visit England. He desires that an English mission should be sent to Cabul.

Telegrams from Shanghai state that it is believed there that China is drifting into war through blind confidence in the strength of her army.

M. Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, to-day confirms the report published by him a few days since that a treaty between France and Russia will shortly be signed.

The Hungarian Minister for Finance (Dr. A. Weyerler) states that a further outlay in connection with the army is necessary.

The Greek fleet is to mobilise nominally for manoeuvres in the Archipelago.

General von Caprivi, the German Chancellor, has ordered criminal proceedings to be instituted against Baron Bleichroeder, the well-known financier, who is Prince Bismarck's banker, and Consul-General at Berlin for Great Britain, on a charge of perjury.

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society beseeches Lord Salisbury to retain Uganda, Africa.

The *Standard* contrasts the circulars issued by the Bank of South Australia, and leaves the shareholders to decide which is true.

An immensely rich silver lode has been discovered at Slocan (N) British Columbia.

M. C. F. Gomod, the famous composer of "Faust," "Roméo and Juliet," &c., expresses the opinion that Madame Melba (Mrs. Armstrong) will soon surpass all other singers on the operatic stage.

The Chilean Junta has withdrawn the watch kept upon the premises of Mr. Patrick Egan, the United States Minister at Santiago. In view of the suspected concealment there of Balmaceda's adherents.

The last words of Mr. Parnell were: "Give my love to my colleagues and the people of Ireland. I hope they may be as well tended in their sickness as I in mine."

The funeral will take place at Dublin on Tuesday.

Mr. Justin McCarthy states that the National League funds invested in Paris will be unavailable pending the decision of the French court.

The Hawaiian Consul at San Francisco contradicts the reports published there that Queen Liliuokalani is dying. He declares that the Queen is ill.

It is stated that the Shone system will be adopted by the directors of the Chicago Exhibition for the drainage of that place.

The coal-heavers employed at the wharves where the dockers have struck, have joined the strikers.

October 9th.

The strike at the Carron Wharf has virtually collapsed, unless the leaders of the men venture upon a general strike.

The Argentine Government has sold Baron Hirsch 200 square miles of country in the Grand Chaco for the settlement of Russian Jews.

United Ireland states that it is the intention of the party to stubbornly uphold Parnellism.

Only a medical examination of the body of the late Mr. C. S. Parnell was made, no post mortem being deemed necessary.

The funeral will take place at Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, on Sunday next.

The mainline will be buried within the O'Connell Circle.

The adherents of the McCarthy section of the Irish party will attend the funeral, although the Parnellites accuse the McCarthyites of hunting Mr. Parnell to the grave.

Drainage works on an extensive scale have been commenced at Marseilles.

An outbreak between the Greek and Latin monks has taken place at Bethlehem. A French Franciscan monk was wounded in the affray.

Outbreaks of frequent occurrence between the Greek, Armenian, and Latin monks, who each have altars in the famous Church of St. Mary of Bethlehem, or the Church of the Nativity. These disputes usually arise in connection with the guardianship of the spot where Christ is said to have been born. This is a cave beneath the church, which is entered from above by a flight of steps. An inscription in the cave reads: "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est." (Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary). As pilgrims are numerous to this sacred spot, each party is anxious for the guardianship. A disagreement about the custody of the Holy Places started the diplomatic difficulties which ultimately led to the Crimean war.

October 10th.

Three colossal statues of the time of Ramesses the Great have been unearthed at Aboukir in Egypt.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that the Italian authorities countenanced the recent rising against the French pilgrims in Rome.

October 11th.

Parnell's funeral took place at Dublin on Sunday. About 20,000 persons were present but the proceedings were orderly throughout 20,000 persons viewed the body as it lay in the City Hall prior to the funeral.

In connection with the strike at the Carron wharves, all trades unions have issued manifestoes calling upon their members to boycott all goods coming from the wharves.

The wheat rings in New York have suffered severe losses during the past few weeks, and several very large failures are impending.

The time for applying for the Russian loan in France has been extended a week. This is regarded as an indication of an unexpected hesitation on the part of the French to subscribe.

The loan will be ignored in London.

At a meeting of the late Mr. C. S. Parnell's prominent supporters at the National Club, Dublin, last night, it was resolved to oppose the reunion of the party. The action of Mr. Dillon in renouncing the leadership of Mr. Parnell was strongly deprecated, and several speakers accused Mr. Dillon of being largely answerable for Mr. Parnell's death.

The meeting has issued a manifesto to the Irish people, promising to uphold Irish national freedom and to continue the struggle until Home Rule is obtained. The Parliamentary party restored, they propose to summon a convention of representative Irishmen to devise the best means for the completion of Mr. Parnell's programme. They disclaim all fellowship with the "sunderers" who disrupted the party and loaded with calumny and hounded to death the foremost man of their race.

Two trains collided near Brindisi. Several persons were injured, but none seriously. Mr. H. M. Stanley and his wife, who are on their way to Australia, were passengers; but were uninjured.

The Trades Unions ordered a boycott of Carron Co.'s and the Hermitage wharves; but the boycott has been practically unheeded.

Mr. John Burns has advised the dock strikers to abandon the suicidal policy of strikes, and resort to the ballot-box for redress.

Immense claims by foreign trading companies are being made against the Chilean Government for damages sustained during the recent civil war.

MELBOURNE, October 12th.

One of the city gas mains in Melbourne burst on Saturday afternoon and the gas escaping filled the sewers which caught fire. The flames burst through the sewer vents into the streets, and blazed fiercely.

A large number of employees of the Melbourne Harbor Trust are laid up with influenza, all the officers being ill.

LONDON, October 13th.

An earthquake occurred yesterday in California, which demolished an insane asylum amongst other buildings.

Rev. Mr. Rigg, of North Brighton, President of the Wesleyan Conference, died on Tuesday from bronchitis supervening on influenza.

The Parnellites, before consenting to a reunion with the other section of the Irish party, will insist on MacCarthy obtaining from Gladstone a plain acceptance of the Home Rule scheme demanded by the late Mr. Parnell.

It is understood that the Victorian Premier has declined to renew Sir Graham Berry's term of office.

De Giers, the Russian Foreign Minister, is interviewing King Humbert of the Italian Premier, and there are symptoms that the Czar is restraining the war party in Russia.

The strike of workmen employed on the Imperial Institute buildings has collapsed.

The Cunard steamship *Umbria* encountered terrible weather while crossing the Atlantic. Two women on board died from fright.

A passenger boat was capsized on the river Scheldt, and ten persons were drowned.

Great Britain's reply to Turkey on the Dardanelles question differs, it is understood, from that of the other Powers.

The German Government have decided to admit American cereals free into Germany on condition that German grown beet sugar be allowed to enter America untaxed.

BRISBANE, October 13th.

In the Assembly on Thursday, in Committee of Supply, a long debate took place on the item of £1,000 for an Imperial Institute, which was subsequently passed. The vote of £1,000 for the exploration of the South Polar regions was negatived. The Colonial Secretary's estimates have passed.

Mr. Nelson called the attention of the House to the cablegrams which appeared in the press with regard to the Bank of England and the Colonial Treasurer's expressions on the floating of the last Queensland loan. Sir Thos. Mellor said that the Government had received no official information on the subject. As soon as they had, they would be quite ready to make a reply.

In the Assembly on Friday, in Committee, Mr. Watson's motion, offering a reward of £5,000 for the manufacture of cement within the colony, was further considered, but after a long debate it was rejected.

No official information has yet been received with reference to the demand of the Bank of England for the withdrawal of the statement

made by the Colonial Treasurer as to the floating of the late loan.

October 15th.

In the Assembly on Tuesday, the Water Supply (Trunks and Wells) Bill passed its third reading. The District Courts Bill passed the second reading. The Provincial Parliaments resolutions were further considered, and a long debate took place over a motion made by Nelson that the Chairman leave the chair; but the motion was negatived by 35 to 15.

In the Assembly on Wednesday, on a motion made by the House go into Committee of Supply, Sir T. Mellor initiated a debate on the demand made by the Bank of England that he would withdraw in connection with the floating of the last Queensland loan. The discussion lasted until after tea adjournment, when Supply was resumed.

The items for the Department of Justice were agreed to, and progress was reported, the Committee obtaining leave to sit again the following day.

The Civil Servants at a meeting held yesterday passed a resolution protesting against the retention of the Superannuation clauses in the Civil Service Act.

SYDNEY, October 15th.

William Burnett was sentenced at Sydney on Tuesday to ten years' imprisonment for assaulting a girl.

Two porters were killed at Homebush railway station near Sydney, yesterday by a train. George Robison was killed in the morning, and John Goodhead who was next on service, and was sent to take Robison's place, was killed in the afternoon.

"BUTTEREM AND SQUEEZEM."

A the Australian continent, which aimed, to monopolise the term "E and A" claimed, for the bidders, deficient in size, which failed to secure them the coveted prize. C stands for clerks who have nothing to do, D is the Donkey, who's paid just for fun, E is the emperors who's always displeased, F for the firm who tried hard for the "Malls," G is the greed they evince by the "chow," H is Hankow, a blushing young maid, I for the innocent persons who dressed her, J is the Jew, who's a new rig, — at a loss, it is said, K is the Keenness of times displayed, L is the load-line displayed by the fleet, M for machinery that looks rather quaint, N is the new rig, — at a loss, it is said, O for the officers in uniform gay, P is the Parnell's disreputable plot, Q is the quarrels between "North and South," R is the reason that never is given, S stands for "Scavengers of the Far East," T is the Tarlatan who bores the lot, U is the unscrupulous you get, V is the vacillations which oft have occurred, W is the wise man who o'er keeps aloof, X is the "X" known, who has penned the above, Y for young men who have just joined the "Line," Z is the zeal displayed by them all, Some get a fat wage, and some none at all, With apologies to the authors of "MACKILLIM & MACKINNAM."

NOTES FROM KOREA.

Chemulpo, 14th October, 1891.

That the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches at our port were finished, I wrote to you by last steamer. I am now in a position to add that the Catholics intend to attach a school for females to their establishment, to be under the superintendence of Sisters of Charity-teachers. This new departure is much needed — as a general rule the education of the native female in Korea is about as much neglected as her sisters in China. The Catholic ecclesiastical buildings compare very favourably with those of the Protestants; there is some pretension to architectural ornamentation in the former, while the latter excel in plain simplicity, of a stern Puritan nature. I'm not sufficiently in Bishop Corfield's confidence to be able to inform you, whether he acted on principle in thus adhering to plainness, or whether he was actuated by motives of economy; but the Catholic establishment is certainly calculated to make a much greater impression upon the native mind, and to captivate their predilection.

I have already informed your readers that a new river-steamship arrived here from Osaka, to the order of Messrs. Morse, Newman & Co.; but she is too small for the purposes intended, and draws too much water for her size; she ought to be twice as large, and of less draught, somewhat like the Russian boats on the Amur River, or similar to those built recently to navigate the upper Salween River, and the upper reaches of the Red river.

Mr. Merrill, the chief of the Customs Staff, is expected out here again before long, his two years leave of absence having nearly expired; it is rumoured that the deputy, who replaced Mr. Merrill during his absence in America, is trying all he can to keep his present position, and I believe it.

Have just dropped across a bit of news in a Japanese newspaper, which enclose without any comment —

Mr. Wada, a Japanese merchant, h's, according to the *Mainichi Shinbun*, been very badly treated at Seoul. He hired an ox, and, going into the suburbs of that Korean town, bought a considerable quantity of ginseng. On returning in the evening he was, it is said, set upon by some eight constables, and robbed of a large value at 400 yen. Wada informed the police authorities, and next day saw the ginseng offered for sale. A pretence was made of arresting the police officers, who, however, were so badly guarded that they succeeded in effecting their escape. When guardians of the peace turn footpads there is something rotten in the administration, and if the facts reported are accurate, there is a strong case for Government interference.

On the 20th ultimo, Colonel Nienstein took delivery of a full battery of six Krupp guns, imported by Messrs. E. Meyer & Co. of Chemulpo; next day the Russian Minister to China, Count Cassini, passed through here for Peking.

Omnia sunt odiosa. The conduct of Mr. Demitriyev, in dealing with Chinese impudence in Seoul, is very favourably commented upon by every white man in this country. Not long ago a similar case of Celestial officiousness occurred in the British Legation, but no particular notice has been taken. *Later aller, later salve*, and read upon nobody's corns, was the *mot d'ordre*. Nothing more has been said about it. I have not bothered my head much about smuggling affairs of late, although the smuggling, winked at by the Customs, done by Chinese officials and apologies for gunboats, under the dragon flag, calls for strong comment, as handicapping severely the legitimate trade of the port, as represented by the honest section of the mercantile community. Judge Denny, when he was here, tried to stop this nefarious game, and only succeeded to get into disgrace and out of office, and so did the late Sir Evelyn, who put his foot down on smuggling and let his head and shoulders down, though, in spite of all hostile misstatements, he is still alive and kicking, and *head out of the water*.

That bag of mystery, Le Gendre, is again on one of his periodical trips to Dai Nippon, and I suppose, it will be the same old thing over again. — Much ado about nothing.

Business is not so brisk now as at the same time last year; perhaps a little over-speculation took place, and a reaction is setting in now. But we have had a good harvest; so we may look forward to fairly good business next season.

There is a curious superstition amongst the natives, that the natives' life is to the effect that the

SIAM NEWS.

The senate attempt, made by the supporters of the German Syndicate to gain an advantage over the competing English firm by introducing the German contractor to His Majesty, met with all the success such ill-considered schemes merit.

total failure. If, instead of two contractors, there had been ten, each with his respective Consul as dry agent, and all eager to advance their interests by a personal appeal to the King, one can well imagine the feelings with which the railway question would be regarded by royalty, and what genuine cause His Majesty would have to send railway schemes to the winds, and the promoters, contractors, and consuls to the devil!

For the last few days the annual processions to the various Bangkok *waits* have been taking place. Yesterday *waits* was Bormonivut, on Tuesday last, and yesterday was in state expected to take place in a few days. The processions of this year will not be on the grand scale of former years, as His Majesty has very considerably taken into consideration the need of labour for the crops, and has in consequence abstained from the usual large requisition of men.

The affairs of the Siam Electric Light Co. are far from being in a satisfactory condition. It would almost appear that the brilliant display made on the occasion of the King's Birthday had overtaxed the company's resources, for since that time there has not been a flicker from the luminant of the future, to show that still it lives. Fuel is beyond the resources of the company; oil, for purposes of lubrication, is also a luxury the company are unable to indulge in; while the payment of the salaries of the European engineers, who are several monthly arrears, seems a question for the far distant future.

White Elephant has gone to St. Petersburg, and may, at the present moment, be on the breast of the White Bear, while we in Bangkok are still quivering over the bones of the bear, and growling over the cost of the reception. It

certainly does not appear dignified, if the port of the Siam Government, to be haggling about the prices charged for their Royal guest's entertainment. They feasted him royally, and they must expect to pay royally. It is not now the time to grumble at heavy champagne bills, and similar items. If the total is great, they must also remember that the honour was great. We strongly advise the Siamese to pay the accounts, as any further huckstering on the matter, will only tend to make them appear ridiculous; besides there is always the danger of some disgruntled creditor making his grievances known at St. Petersburg, or of even sending his accounts there, for settlement!

We anticipated, a short time ago, on the subject of discrimination shown by a certain Department in the selection of uniforms for its officers. Our comments seem to have caused no little heart-burnings in the Department in question, and the total of our subscription list has been diminished, also on this account,

